"UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS"

(Episode No. 20)

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11:30 to 12:30 P.M. C. D. S. T. MAY 26, 1932 THURSDAY

ANNOUNCER: Here they are - Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers.

(ORCHESTRA: QUARTET)

ANNOUNCER: Well, folks, again we're taking you to the national forest where Ranger Jim Robbins is in charge of the Pine Cone District. Ranger Jim and his young assistant, Jerry Quick, have been finishing up their fire plans so as to be ready for any emergency that may come up during the fire season. The lookout stations are now manned, summer-term guards have been stationed at strategic points throughout the district, volunteer fire fighting crews to aid in emergencies have been lined up. A special crew of forest guards has been detailed to the fire truck which is kept in readiness at the ranger station, equipped with fire tools, water tank, hose and pump.

Today we find Jim and Jerry at the Pine Cone Ranger Station where they have been spending the morning cleaning up some office work. It is just about time for the mid-day meal -- "dinner," they call it at the Ranger Station --

(MUSICAL INTERLUDE)

JIM: All right, Jerry. Let's check over the fire plan chart here again. I want to be sure you've got it all straight.

JERRY: Okay, Jim. Shoot.

JIM: Well, now, there's these two look out stations - Windy Mountain, and Bald Peak --

BESS: (off; cutting in) Oh Jim. Dinner's ready.

JERRY: Mrs. Robbins says it's time to eat.

JIM: Dinner ready? -- (calls) All right, Bess. Just a minute. We'll be through here now in a shake.

BESS: (coming up) All right. -- But don't you keep me waiting again.

JIM: Of course not. (chuckles) Don't I always jump for the table with the first crack of the bell?

BESS: (bantering) That's the best fable of the year, Jim. If you were as slow about other things as you are about coming to meals, you'd never get anything done.

JIM: (chuckles) Now, Bess, you're too hard on the old man -- We'll be ready in a minute.

BESS: Yes, I know. -- Jerry, don't you let him forget to come and eat.

JERRY: You bet I won't, Mrs. Robbins.

JIM: (chuckles) Now you've gone and demoralized my office force, Bess. Jerry won't be able to think of anything else but grub now.

BESS: You'd better think about it a little yourself -- (going off) I'm going to dish things up in just a minute now. You and Jerry come as soon as you can, won't you?

JIM: Sure. We'll be right in . -- Hmm -- Let's see -- Now that we've got the new look out station put up on Bald Peak, we've got a pretty good detection system for all this part of the district here -- where the biggest timber values are, see? -- on the map?

JERRY: Yeah. Except for that blind spot there - that they can't see from either one of the look out stations --

JIM: Well, some day maybe we'll have funds enough to put up another look out station on Henderson Mountain -- that'll take care of the blind spot, and the high country back there too. The timber values aren't so great back there, but the recreation values, and the water shed protection values are mighty important .-- Well, now -- we've got two patrolmen back in there -- and a smoke chaser stationed at the Wagon Canyon Guard Station and one at Willow Creek Guard Station -- and then of course the smoke chasers with the fire truck here at the Ranger Station.

JERRY: Yeah -- that's the first line of defense.

JIM: That's right. Then there's our road crew that's working on the new protection road over here - and the trail crew we've got working on that new trail location we surveyed a few weeks ago. - They're all equipped for fire fighting and ready to go on a moment's notice. -- And Al Perkins has got his logging camp organized into a doggone good fire fighting unit in case of emergency --

JERRY: Yes, I know.

JIM: And then of course there are the key men - the stockmen and local settlers here abouts that're all lined up to cooperate with us as volunteers in case there's a fire. They're all listed here on the chart.

JERRY: I think I've got them all straight.

BESS: (off) Oh Jim. Aren't you coming to dinner?

JIM: (calls) Pretty quick now, Bess.

BESS: (off) Everything's dished up on the table. It's getting cold.

JIM: (calls) All right, Bess. -- We're coming. -- (to Jerry) Well Jerry, that just hits the high spots, but I want you to have this fire plan pretty well in mind, because you're going to have to ride hard on on the whole business some of the time this summer.

JERRY: Me?

JIM: Sure. And you'll have to know right where everybody and everything is - tool caches and everything - and how to get things moving quick.

JERRY: Well, I'll do my durndest, Jim.

JIM: Sure you will. You know, the old General's theory of war strategy applies to forest fire suppression too.

JERRY: What was that?

JIM: The way the old general put it was: "Git thar firestest with the mostest men."

JERRY: (laughs) That's the idea, all right.

JIM: Well now, I reckon we'd better go put on the nosebags. Seems to me I heard Bess say something about dinner being ready.

JERRY: Yeah. Let's eat.

(PHONE RINGS)

JIM: (chuckles) Look-a-there, now. That blame telephone would ring just when we're headin' for the grub. -- (to phone) Pine Cone Ranger Station -- Yes, this is the ranger -- Want a fishing license, eh? - Sure, we can fix you up. The rangers here are authorized by the State to issue licenses. -- That's all right. Glad to help you. Drop by the station tonight and we'll fix you up. All right. Hope they bite for you -- (chuckles) Good bye. (HANGS UP RECEIVER) (TO JERRY) Another fellow after a fishing license.

JERRY: Gee. I envy him. -- Wish I could get a little time to go fishing.

JIM: (chuckles) Haven't had much time for fishing yet, have you? Well, maybe you'll get a chance one of these days. -- Fishing ought to be pretty good up the South Fork this year. We've been planting fish up there for three years now.

JERRY: I'd like to get in on some of that work.

JIM: You will. It's interesting work. -- One of the hardest problems in fish planting, though, is the transportation of the little fish from the hatcheries to the streams and lakes you're going to stock. You've got to move 'em quickly, and be mighty careful the water in the cans doesn't get too warm and the fish die. -- Last year, over on the Inyo National Forest, they transported fish fry to the back country by airplane.

JERRY: I bet that's a new experience for a fish - to take an airplane ride.

JIM: Well, I never heard of fish being susceptible to seasickness but there might've been some danger of 'em getting air sick. -- I reckon they didn't though. The rangers said they all came through in fine shape.

JERRY: That's good. (laughs) Imagine a fish being air sick.

JIM: (chuckles) That would be an unusual case. Most likely that'd even stump old Coffee John - he's the cook up at the logging camp, you know.

JERRY: Yeah.

JIM: Coffee John's usually ready with a remedy for everything from dandruff to fallen arches. (chuckles) Did you ever heard the one the boys tell on him about curing the yellow jaundice?

JERRY: No. How was that?

JIM: Well, one night a bunch of the lumber jacks came in from the woods with their faces all yellow as a bunch of dandelions. Coffe John takes one look at 'em and says it's the yellow jaundice - but he knew just the thing to cure that; he'd have 'em all fixed up in a jiffy. The jacks all started protestin', - said they never felt better in their lives, but Coffee John kept on insistin' they was sick and he was going to give 'em some medicine. -- So he went to work and brewed up a pot of sassafras tea, and threw in some catnip and horse linament and smartweed and epsom salts and two or three handfuls of cherry bark --

JERRY: (laughs) Gee, that ought to cure anything.

JIM: Well, he finished up by pouring in a bottle of turpentine and dumping in a couple of cans of red pepper -- and let the whole business simmer awhile. Then he went after the boys and in spite of all the howling and kicking they did, he managed to pour a nice big dose of his medicine down each one of 'em.

JERRY: (laughs) Did it cure 'em?

JIM: Well, not exactly. 'twasn't long before they were all real honest-to-goodness sick, and the camp boss had to call in a doctor.

JERRY: I should think he would.

JIM: (chuckles) Uh huh. -- Well, the doc looked at their tongues and felt their pulses and prodded and poked at 'em a while and pretty soon he rubs one of the boy's faces -- and the yellow came right off on his finger.

JERRY: What was it?

JIM: (chuckles) Well, come to find out - the boys had been skidding logs along side a yellow clay bank - and all they needed was to have their faces washed.

JERRY: (laughs) That's a good one, all right.

JIM: Well, anyhow, - if you ever take sick around the logging camp, I'd advise you to steer clear of Coffee John's medicine.

JERRY: I sure will. -- Say, hadn't we better go eat?

JIM: (chuckles) Well now, what d'yuh think of that -- I'd plum forgot about eating. -- Hungry, are yuh?

JERRY: I'll say I am.

JIM: All right, let's go.

JERRY: Okay. Now for the eats!

(PHONE RINGS)

JIM: There's that durned phone again.

JERRY: I'll get it - (to phone) Pine Cone Ranger Station -- Yeah, this is Jerry Quick. -- Yeah, the humidity's still low. - Uh huh -- Today's weather report showed fire weather again. -- Yeah -- All right, Pete, I'll tell Jim -- So long. (HANGS UP RECEIVER) (TO JIM) That was Pete Evans up on Bald Peak Look out. He wants some more weather report forms stuck in the pack next time we send him up a load of supplies.

JIM: He shouldn't be out of those already. Who checked the first batch of supplies that went up?

JERRY: I -- I guess I did.

JIM: Well, then, that one's on you. Better make a note to send him some more weather report forms; before you forget it.

JERRY: I'll make a note right now - (repeating as he writes) Weather -- report -- forms -- for Bald -- Peak.

JIM: Pete hasn't had much use for fire report forms yet -- but you never can tell when things might start popping -- We've been having dangerous fire weather for the last few days.

JERRY: Yeah, and there's quite a few people been coming up into the forest lately to go fishing.

JIM: Uh huh. Most of the boys here in Winding Creek that go fishing are pretty wise about the woods, but some of the fellows from down in the city are like as not to go off and leave their campfire burning or drop a match, or something.

JERRY: Well, we'll be right after any fire that get started on our forest.

BESS: (coming up) Well, now. I suppose you boys have forgotten all about dinner.

JIM: (chuckles) Forget about eating? Now, Bess, of course we hadn't. We were just coming in when the phone rang, weren't we, Jerry?

JERRY: Sure we were, Mrs. Robbins.

BESS: My land, I certainly do have a time feeding you two men. First you have to finish up some work, and then the phone rings -- and then you forget to come at all. What's a poor Ranger's wife going to do?

JERRY: Believe me, I hadn't forgotten about it.

JIM: (chuckles) Well, we're coming right now, Bess.

BESS: All right. You'll find things on the stove. I left them there to keep warm.

JIM: Have to dish up my own grub, eh? (chuckles) Well, it serves me right, I guess. -- Come on, Jerry, let's hop to it.

BESS: (going off) And don't forget to clean up the table after you.

JIM: All right, Bess. (chuckles) See there, what I got you into, Jerry?

JERRY: Yeah.

(PHONE RINGS)

JERRY: Shucks. We never will get any dinner. -- Go ahead, I'll get it. (To phone) Pine Cone Ranger Station -- Yeah. -- (calls to Jim, excitedly) Oh Jim! Bald Peak's reporting a fire! You better take the phone.

JIM: No, you get it, Jerry. Get Bald Peak's location on it.

JERRY: (to phone -- Jerry is excited through following; Jim is calm) Hello. Bald Peak? -- Yeah -- radial twenty eight? -- Yeah. Wait a minute. (to Jim) It's on Bald Peak's radial twenty eight, Jim.

JIM: Radial twenty eight -- Okay.

JERRY: (to phone) Hello. -- Yeah? (to Jim) Pete says the smoke's rolling up heavy, Jim!

JIM: Call Windy Mountain Look out and get their location on it, Jerry.

JERRY: (to phone) Hello. -- Pete? -- Wait a minute, Pete. I'm going to call Windy Mountain -- Oh Hello . -- Yeah. (to Jim) I don't need to call 'em, Jim. Windy Mountain's already on the line.

JIM: Right on the job. That's good.

JERRY: (to phone) Hello. -- Yeah Pete just reported it. What's your reading on it? -- one hundred and thirty-two -- Yeah. Wait a minute. (to Jim) Windy Mountain reports it radial one hundred and thirty-two.

JIM: Radial one hundred and thirty-two? -- Let's see where the lines intersect. --

JERRY: (to phone) Hello! -- Yeah -- (to Jim) He says it looks like it's right near Big Tree Camp ground from where he is.

JIM: Yeah. He's right. It's right near the road. Press the button for the boys out back, Jerry, so they'll have the fire truck started. I'll take the phone.

JERRY: Here goes! (SOUND OF LOUD KLAXON, OFF (CALL SIGNAL IS A STATIONARY AUTO HORN MOUNTED BACK OF HOUSE)

JIM: (to phone) Hello. -- Hello Pete. This is Jim. -- Yeah. -- Yeah. All right, Pete. So long. (HANGS UP RECEIVER) (TO JERRY) Pete says it looks bad. Guess I better go up with the truck, Jerry.

JERRY: Do I go too?

JIM: This is your first fire, ain't it? -- Yeah, you'd better come along too.

BESS: (coming up) Is it a fire, Jim?

JIM: Yes, there's a smoke up near Big Tree Camp ground, Bess. I reckon I'd better go, seeing as some of our truck crew are new on the job. -- Come on, Jerry.

BESS: (going off) Oh dear. And you boys haven't had your dinner yet.

JIM: So long, Bess. We'll be back sooner or later. (SOUND OF BACK DOOR) --(while hurrying to truck) The boys've got the fire truck purrin', Jerry - ready to light out.

JERRY: Yeah.

JIM: (louder) All right, boys! Up the road to Big Tree Camp. -- Let 'er go.

(ROAR OF TRUCK MOTOR - UP A SECOND THEN FADES DOWN A LITTLE FOR FOLLOWING:)

JERRY: (off) Hey, wait a minute!

JIM: Hold it, Billy. -- Come on. Climb on here, Jerry. (chuckles) Nearly pulled out and left you, eh?

JERRY: All right. I'm on.

JIM: Step on 'er, Billy!

(ROAR OF MOTOR UP AND FADE OUT WITH SIREN)

(MUSICAL INTERLUDE)

JIM: Whew! -- Well, it was a tough battle while it lasted.

JERRY: Tough! Gosh. I never worked so hard in my life.

JIM: (chuckles) Fire-fighting is no picnic, Jerry.

JERRY: I should say it isn't!

JIM: Anyhow, this one was pretty easy. We didn't have much trouble getting it under control, with the water pump on it. -- Lucky we stopped it though. It might've spread plenty fast if we hadn't got on it in a hurry.

JERRY: Yeah. It was sure boiling up when we got here.

JIM: Yep. -- Well, we'll leave a couple of the boys here to mop up and patrol it. I'll let you make out the report on it when we get back to the Station, Jerry.

JERRY: All right. -- Say, we never did get any lunch, did we? When do we eat?

JIM: (chuckles) Well now, if we hurry, we might get back home in time to scare up a little supper.

(FADE OUT)

ANNOUNCER: And we'll bet Jim and Jerry will do plenty of damage to that supper! -- Fire is the greatest enemy of the forests. Fire destroys. It converts pleasant, inviting woodlands into ugly blackened wastes. It may mean the loss of lives, homes, livestock and forage, and of vast amounts of timber. And the greatest cause of fire is man's carelessness. Remember: - fires, matches, and burning tobacco must be used as carefully in the forest as they are in the home.

Next Thursday at this same hour, Ranger Jim and Jerry will be with us again. "Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers" comes to you as a presentation of the National Broadcasting Company, with the cooperation of the United States Forest Service.

Today's cast included

ORCHESTRA:

is/4:15 P.M.
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